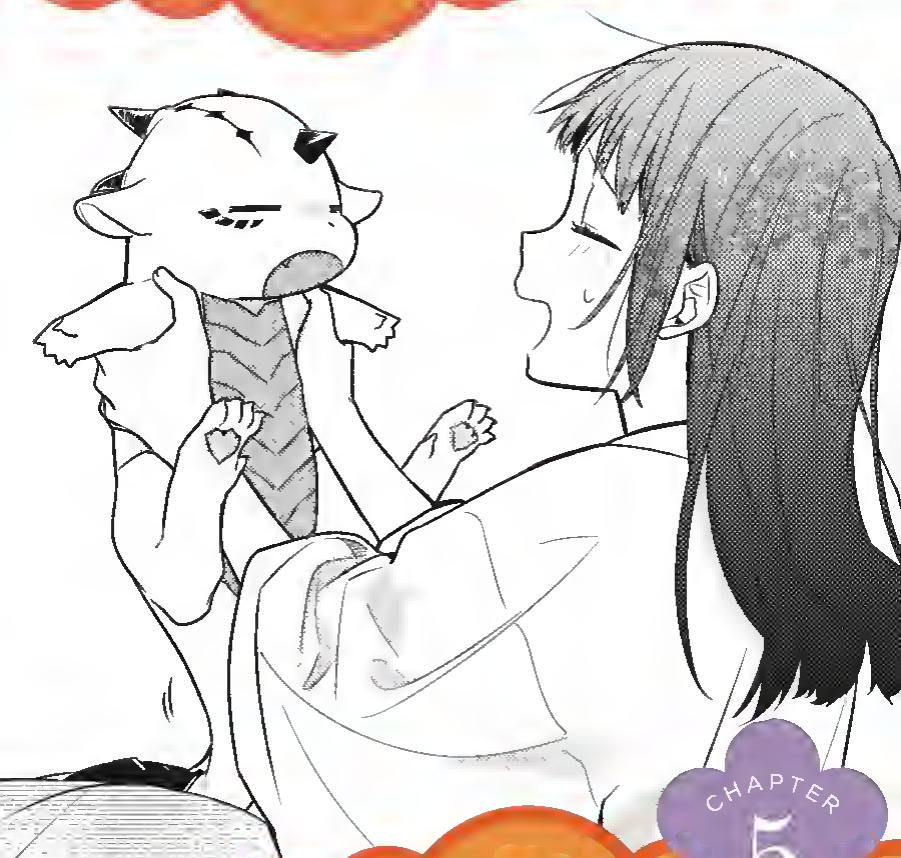
NE NE NE



CHAPTER 5

〖STORY〗 Shizuku Totono

〖ART〗 Daisuke Hagiwara

ピョコ
PYOKO (TWITCH)
CHI (CHIRP) CHI CHI
チチチ
チュン CHUN (TWEET)
チュン CHUN
くあ
KUAA (YAWWN)
KARI (SCRATCH)
カリカリ KARI
SU (SLIDE)
SU SU
ススス
TOKO (TAP)
トコトコ TOKO TOKO
PORI (SCRITCH)
ポリポリ PORI

K (FLASH)
HUH!?
SUU
SUU (ZZZ)
GOSO (RUSTLE)
GOSO
GOSO
GOSO (RUSTLE)
BIKUN (FLINCH)
AH!
WHAT!? SOME-THING'S UNDER THE...
PURAAAN (DANGLE)
MAAA.
OH, IT'S YOU, POCHIMARU-SAN.
GOOD MORNING.

NO NO NO

Chapter 5

IT'S BEEN SEVERAL WEEKS SINCE WE MARRIED.
KOYUKI, CAN I HAVE A LITTLE MORE?
OF COURSE
I'VE BEEN TRIED TO PUT IT OUT OF MY MIND, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I JUST CAN'T HELP WONDERING ABOUT.
THAT'S RIGHT
CHIRA (PEEK)
SHIN-SAN'S TRUE FACE.
YAWN...
TIRED...
HE SAID HE WORE THE MASK SO HE WOULDN'T GET POSSESSED.
POMU (TUP)
POMU
IT FEELS TOO LATE TO ASK HIM TO SHOW ME, BUT I AM CURIOUS...
UMMM ...
MORI (HEAPING)
KOYUKI, THAT'S ENOUGH... THAT'S GOOD. PLEASE. GIMME A BREAK.
I CAN'T EAT ALL THAT.

KOYUKI: A 16-YEAR-OLD WITH A HUSBAND WHOSE FACE SHE'S NEVER SEEN. HE TREATS HER LIKE A CHILD AND IT BOTHERS HER A BIT.

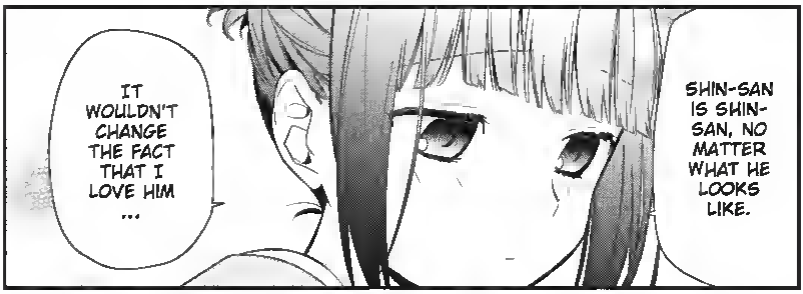
SHIN: KOYUKI'S HUSBAND. A 27-YEAR-OLD WHO WEARS A MASK ALL THE TIME BECAUSE HE'S EASILY POSSESSED. [illegible] VISION.

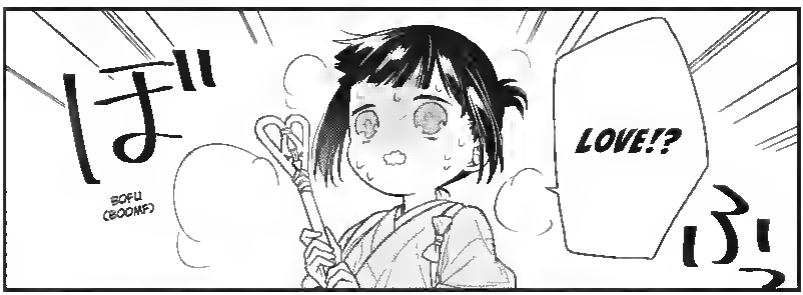
POCHAMARU: A BABY DRAGON THAT HATCHED FROM AN EGG THAT WAS SENT TO SHIN AS FOOD. BECAUSE KOYUKI WANTED IT, IT'S NOW THE HANABUSA FAMILY PET.

© "YUKI" OF KOYUKI MEANS SNOW

MAAA?
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN IT EITHER, HAVE YOU, POCHIMARU-SAN?
I WONDER WHAT SHIN-SAN'S FACE LOOKS LIKE...
MOWAN (HAZE)
SHURU (SLIP)
MOWAN
I ONLY KNOW HIS MOUTH AND CHIN. MAYBE IT'S LIKE ...
LIKE ...
DEEEEN (SU-DAAAD)
HAHAHAHAHAHAHA
SUPON
PON (POP)
POPON (POP-POP)
EVEN IN MY MIND, NO MATTER HOW MANY MASKS I REMOVE, THERE'S ALWAYS ANOTHER ONE.
!?
WAIT... THE MASK HAS MADE SUCH AN IMPRESSION ON ME THAT I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE WITHOUT IT.

?
?
BAD
GOOD
PAN (TMP)
PAN
WHAT MAKES A FACE "GOOD" OR "BAD," ANYWAY?


IT WOULDN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT I LOVE HIM ...
SHIN-SAN IS SHIN-SAN, NO MATTER WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE.


ぼふ
BOFU (BOOMF)
LOVE!?
ぶっ

MAAA
HOW EMBARRASSING!
ばん
BAN
ばん
BAN
ばん
BAN (THWAP)
AAAAAH! "LOVE"!? REALLY, HOW COULD I SAY SUCH A—!?

I'M HOME.
I GOT CAUGHT IN A RAIN SHOWER ON MY WAY BACK.
BISHO (SOAKED)
GYO (JUMP)
OH NO! I'LL BRING YOU FRESH CLOTHES RIGHT AWAY.
THANKS, KOYUKI. GET A BATH READY TOO, WOULD YOU?
NUGI (STRIP)
NUGI
HAH (GAS)
THE BATH!
HE MUST TAKE HIS MASK OFF IN THERE.
KAPOOON (KA-POW)
SECRET
WHEW
B-BUT PEEPING!? I COULDN'T ...!
GURU (SPIN)
GURU
GURU
!?
KO... KOYUKI-SAN? WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

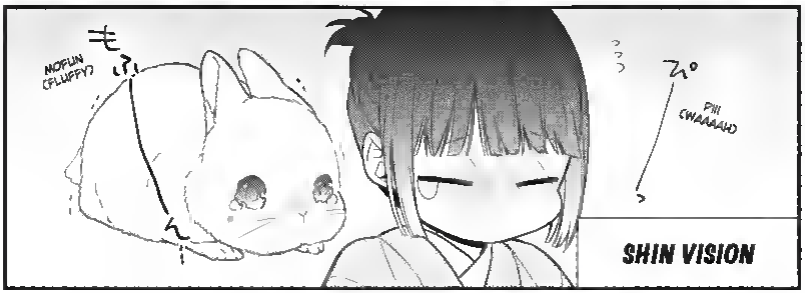
PERFECT. THANKS.
HOW IS THE WATER?
SHIN-SAN'S FACE IS JUST OVER THERE!
IF...IF IT'S JUST A LITTLE, THEN...!
SUKU (FWISH)
PEEPING IS A SHAMELESS ACT, BUT...
I CAN'T REACH.
すかっ
SUKA
すか
SUKA (SWISH)
HMM?

GI (GRIP)
JUST A LITTLE ...
... MORE ...
PURU
PURU
PURU (TREMBLE)
JUST A LITTLE FARTHER ...
I MADE IT!
PAAA (BEAM)
WHAT'RE YOU DOING?
NU (LOOM)
SHE TOOK A MAGNIFICENT TUMBLE.
HUH!? WAIT— KOYUKI!? ARE YOU OKAY!?
EEEEK!
BITAAAN (WHUMP)

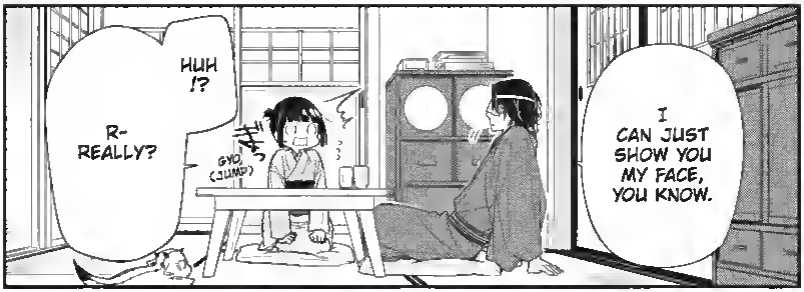
I'M SORRY
YES...
GOOD GRIEF... YOU WERE TRYING TO PEEP OVER SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
I WON'T...
I'M SORRY TO HAVE WORRIED YOU
I'M JUST GLAD YOU DIDN'T GET HURT
THAT'S DANGEROUS, SO DON'T DO IT AGAIN.
YOU DIDN'T HIT YOUR HEAD WHEN YOU FELL, DID YOU?
THAT CLOTH, SHIN-SAN...
UM. SO...
AN IRONCLAD DEFENSE !!
PIRON (DRAPE)
OH, RIGHT! I ALWAYS WEAR THIS IN THE BATH.

※COMPLETELY FORGOT.
SHUN (DROOP)
ACTUALLY, IF SHE PEEPED ON ME IN THE BATH, SHE'D SEE ME NAKED TOO. DID SHE KNOW ABOUT THAT WHEN SHE TRIED IT?

HONESTLY. WHAT WAS I DOING?
JIII (STAAARE)


MOFUN (FLUFFY)
PIII (WAAAAH)
SHIN VISION

ONE OF SHIN-SAN'S LONG SIGHS!?
IS HE ANGRY!?
HIKU (FLINCH)
I'M STILL SEEING BUNNIES.
NOT GOOD. I CAN'T SHAKE THAT HALLUCINATION.
HAA (SIGH)

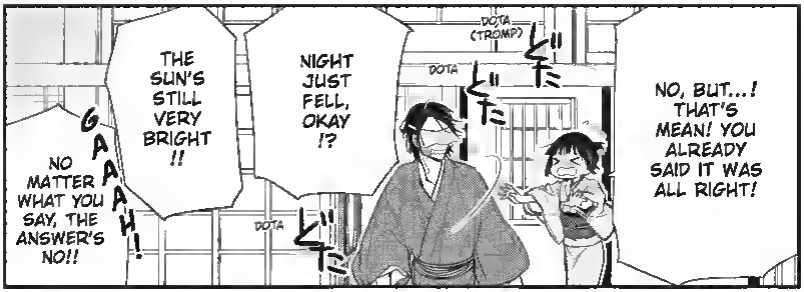

I CAN JUST SHOW YOU MY FACE, YOU KNOW.
GYO (JUMP)
HUH!?
R-REALLY?

IT'S STILL LIGHT OUT, SO THERE AREN'T MANY ELDRITCH THINGS AROUND NOW.
PIRA (LIFT)
EVEN WITHOUT THIS, THE ODDS OF GETTING POSSESSED ARE...

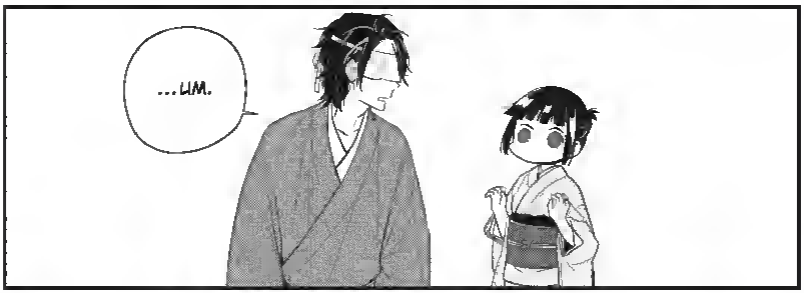
ANTICIPATION
KIRA
KIRA
KIRA (SPARKLE)
PAAA (GLEEEAM)
KIRA
ぱあああ

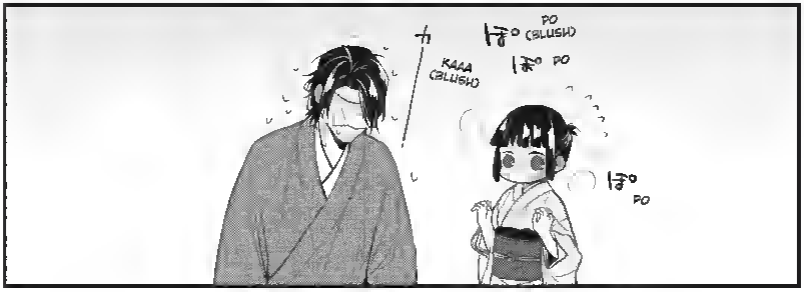
HUH? WHAT'S THIS?
DARA
DARA
DARA (SWEAT)
DARA
DARA
SUDDENLY I FEEL EXTREMELY PRESSURED.

WILL SHE BE DISAPPOINTED? WILL SHE HATE ME?
(STARE)
WHAT IF MY FACE ISN'T WHAT KOYUKI THINKS IT IS?
THE LAST TIME WAS... UH...
THINK. HOW DID THE LAST PERSON YOU SHOWED YOUR FACE TO REACT?
P. CHIP
CALM DOWN, SHIN. YOU'RE NOT THAT UGLY... PROBABLY.
MEANING TWENTY-ODD YEARS BACK! WHOA!! I'M COMPLETELY NOT CONFIDENT ABOUT THIS !!!
INTERVAL: 0.5 SECONDS.
P N DING!
WHEN I WAS ABOUT FIFTEEN !!
GAN (SHOCK)
HUH!?
ACTUALLY, LET'S JUST NOT. OKAY?
GI
(CREAK)


NO MATTER WHAT YOU SAY, THE ANSWER'S NO!!
GAAH!
THE SUN'S STILL VERY BRIGHT!!
NIGHT JUST FELL, OKAY!?
DOTA (TROMP)
DOTA
DOTA
NO, BUT...! THAT'S MEAN! YOU ALREADY SAID IT WAS ALL RIGHT!

KUWA (ROAR)
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE RESPONSI-BILITY FOR THAT!?
WHAT IF I SHOW YOU MY FACE, AND YOU END UP HATING ME!?


...UM.


PO (BLUSH)
PO
KAAA (BLUSH)
PO

I-IF THE WORST HAPPENS ...
SHIN-SAN, IT'S ALL RIGHT!
...I'LL OWN ALL THE RESPONSI-BILITY...
BAAAN GYAAAWD
...AND TAKE YOU AS MY HUSBAND !!
—YEAH, EXCEPT WE'RE ALREADY MARRIED!
I SAID NO. AND I MEAN NO!!
KUAAA GYAAAWD
BUUUT ...!
HOW MANLY !!!
JIIIN (TOUCHED)

TO BE CONTINUED!

NE NE NE

5

[[STORY]] Shizuku Totono

[[ART]] Daisuke Hagiwara

TRANSLATION: TAYLOR ENGEL
LETTERING: BIANCA PISTILLO

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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